(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Hazardous effect of GM food

*10. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a group of Scientists and agriculture experts have cautioned against introduction of genetically modified (GM) food crops, especially BT Brinjal in the country;

(b) if so, whether such GM food stuffs may cause allergies and unknown health problems;

(c) if so, whether several developed countries have either banned or restricted the entry of GM foods; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to restrict the entry of GM foods in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The Department of Agricultural Research and Education has not received any report from a group of scientists and agricultural experts cautioning against introduction of genetically modified (GM) food crops specially Bt Brinjal in the country.

(b) As per the biosafety data conducted so far, no allergies and unknown health problems by GM food stuffs has been reported.

(c) The Department of Agricultural Research and Education does not have any information.

(d) There is no proposal to restrict the entry from GM food in the country.

Third berth near window in train coaches

†*11.SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry had decided to add a third berth near the window of a railway compartment in order to increase its income;

(b) if so, the total number of coaches where a third berth has been added under the said scheme so far;

(c) to what extent the same has added to the income of Railway Department so far; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that now it is being proposed to discontinue this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) With the prime objective of enhancing the passenger carrying capacity in our trains, provision of a third (middle) berth was thought to be made in Sleeper Class and AC 3 Tier coaches running in mail/express services and also in AC 3 Tier coaches of Garib Rath trains.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) About 6150 AC 3 Tier and Sleeper Class coaches have so far been provided with such additional longitudinal middle berths.

(c) The main objective behind the third berth plan was to augment the passenger carrying capacity. The increment in revenue is also there though it is marginal. At present, no separate statistics are available of the gross revenue from these modified coaches.

(d) Yes, Sir. However, the coaches where additional berths have been provided will be utilized where the total journey may not involve more than one night.

Free second line HIV treatment

*12. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to provide second line treatment to HIV patients free of cost;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain hospitals have been identified in the country for providing such free treatment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia* indicating those that are located in Orissa and Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) The Government of India announced the provision of second line Anti-retroviral Treatment (ART) on 1st December, 2007 for patients who develop resistance to first-line ART. It was rolled out on pilot basis at two centres *viz.* J.J. Hospital, Mumbai and GHTM, Tambaram, from 1st January, 2008. Based on the experience gained in the pilot study, the second line ART has been initiated in eight more hospitals, namely Gandhi Hospital, Hyderabad; PGIMER, Chandigarh; Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi; B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad; Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital, Bangalore; RIMS, Imphal; School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkata and Institute of Medical Sciences, BHU, Varanasi. Capacities have since been developed in these institutes by way of trained doctors and laboratory facilities required for initiating and monitoring second line ART. Second-line ART shall be provided free of cost to eligible patients below poverty line (BPL), widows & children and to patients under treatment in Government ART centers continuously for at least two years, irrespective of income status.

As facilities for investigations required for determining drug resistant cases are limited, second-line ART is being rolled out in a phased manner to enable the institutions to gain required expertise and experience. Accordingly the institutions will, in the first phase, cover eligible patients from their own centre followed by expanding services to other States linked to them. Patients from Bihar and